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Agenda item 118
**Follow-up to the commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade**

**Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Brazil, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominica, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone,* Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution**

## Permanent memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolution 61/19 of 28 November 2006, entitled "Commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade" and subsequent resolutions entitled "Permanent memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade",

*Recalling also* the designation of 25 March as the annual International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade,

*Recognizing* that too little is known about the transatlantic slave trade and its lasting consequences, felt throughout the world, and welcoming the increased attention that the annual commemoration by the General Assembly has brought to the issue, including raising awareness in many States,

*Noting* the initiatives undertaken by States in reaffirming their commitment to implement paragraphs 101 and 102 of the Durban Declaration of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, aimed at countering the legacy of slavery and contributing to the restoration of the dignity of the victims of slavery and the slave trade,[1]

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States.

[1] See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

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*Recalling*, in particular, paragraph 101 of the Durban Declaration, which, inter alia, invited the international community and its members to honour the memory of the victims,

*Recalling also* its resolution 68/237 of 23 December 2013 by which it proclaimed the International Decade for People of African Descent from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2024, and its resolution 69/16 of 18 November 2014 by which it adopted the programme of activities for the Decade,

*Stressing* the importance of educating and informing current and future generations about the causes, consequences, lessons and legacy of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade,

*Recalling* that the permanent memorial initiative complements the work being done at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the Slave Route Project,

1. *Welcomes* the erection of the *Ark of Return*, at a place of prominence at United Nations Headquarters that is easily accessible to delegates, United Nations staff and visitors, as the permanent memorial to honour the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, in acknowledgement of the tragedy and in consideration of the legacy of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade;

2. *Expresses gratitude* to the committee of interested States, drawn from all geographical regions of the world, comprising Brazil, Ghana, Jamaica, Kenya, the Netherlands, Portugal, Qatar, Senegal, Suriname and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, with Member States from the Caribbean Community and the African Union playing a primary role, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, representatives of the Secretariat and civil society, which oversaw the permanent memorial project;

3. *Recalls* the establishment of a trust fund account for the permanent memorial, referred to as the United Nations Trust Fund for Partnerships — Permanent Memorial, administered by the United Nations Office for Partnerships, and notes the current status of contributions to the Trust Fund;[2]

4. *Expresses sincere appreciation* to those Member States, organizations and individuals that have made contributions to the Trust Fund;

5. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme of educational outreach on the transatlantic slave trade and slavery[3] relating to the diverse educational outreach strategy to increase awareness of and to educate future generations about the causes, consequences, lessons and legacy of the transatlantic slave trade and to communicate the dangers of racism and prejudice, and encourages continued action in this regard;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to organize an annual series of activities to commemorate the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, including a commemorative meeting of the General Assembly at United Nations Headquarters and, as appropriate, activities through the network of United Nations information centres;

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[2] A/70/136.

[3] A/70/221.

7. *Requests* the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, in cooperation with the countries concerned and with relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to continue to take appropriate steps to enhance world public awareness of the commemorative activities and the permanent memorial at United Nations Headquarters;

8. *Reiterates its request*, in resolution 64/15 of 16 November 2009, for Member States to develop, in accordance with their national legislation, educational programmes, including through school curricula, designed to educate and inculcate in future generations an understanding of the lessons, history and consequences of slavery and the slave trade, and to provide such information to the Secretary-General for inclusion in his report;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session on continued action to implement the programme of educational outreach, including actions taken by Member States in implementing the present resolution, as well as steps to enhance world public awareness of the commemorative activities and the permanent memorial;

10. *Requests* the United Nations Office for Partnerships, through the Secretary-General, to submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the status of the Trust Fund and, in particular, on contributions received and their utilization;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session an item entitled "Commemoration of the abolition of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade".